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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Files

DATE: 12 September 1975

FROM : Chief, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: OLSON, Frank R.
[REDACTED]

1. In connection with the 1975 proceedings of the Presidential Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States (Rockefeller Commission), memoranda under the caption of Alleged Illegal Domestic Activities were prepared by the Office of Security on a variety of different topics or subjects. The memoranda were numerous, detailed, and many had attachments or information concerning two or more subjects or topics.

2. The above memoranda may or may not have been furnished in toto to the Rockefeller Commission. The memoranda were transmitted through the DDA to the Inspector General with a certain number to the General Counsel and were not directly furnished to the Rockefeller Commission by the Office of Security. Due to the extreme urgency and complexity of the above memoranda, it was not possible to document many of the pertinent security files.

3. In order to alert OS professionals that information concerning a specific individual or organization was prepared in connection with the above investigation, a copy of this memorandum is being placed in each pertinent security file (where a file exists). In general, the information furnished was based on information available in the particular security file, but additional research in other Office of Security files was involved in a number of instances. In the event of future detailed interest in a particular file, a copy of all memoranda prepared in connection with the Rockefeller Commission investigation is retained in the office of the [REDACTED]. In addition, [REDACTED] is at least temporarily maintaining a copy of the majority of the memoranda and can also be of assistance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

b (1) b (3) [REDACTED]

Approved for Release

Date 1 FEB 2000

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ARTICHOKE

ARTICHOKE is the cryptonym used by the Agency for the use of drugs and/or hypnosis as an aid to interrogation.

Analysis of the ARTICHOKE file reflected several basic papers which discussed the use of drugs or chemicals in unconventional interrogation. Information contained therein indicated that for a number of years prior to 1952, the use of drugs or chemicals in unconventional interrogation was studied by the Office of Security, in cooperation with OSI. Evidently, prior to 1952, OSI was the coordinating point for this type activity within the Agency.

It appears that drugs and hypnosis were experimentally tried by the Office of Security as early as 1949 to 1950 by a team under a project known as BLUEBIRD. As early as 1951, actual interrogations with use of drugs were conducted by a combined team of OS personnel and Medical Services personnel. Details of specific operations were not reflected.

Apparently, in 1952 operational control of the so-called ARTICHOKE work was passed to the Office of Security. At this time, it appears that drugs were used in a number of cases, at all times supported by personnel from the Office of Medical Services. Few details concerning these experiments were contained in available file information.

Apparently, interrogations with the use of drugs were carried on at rare intervals up through 1956. In one instance, approval was granted for use of "P-1" (presumably LSD) in January 1959.

[REDACTED] A memo dated 6 July 1960 reflected OS approval at a meeting of the "Drug Committee." The memo was signed by Mr. R. L. BANNERMAN, Deputy Director of Security. Files also contained an [] in 1955 which contained a request for ARTICHOKE interrogation of nine persons. No disposition in this instance was found. (b)(1) (b)(3)

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A memorandum, subject title: Project ARTICHOKE, dated 21 November 1952, by Mr. Sheffield EDWARDS reflected transfer of the overall responsibility for Project ARTICHOKE from OSI to "I&SO." Provision was made for I&SO to call upon the research and support facilities of CIA Medical Staff and OTS as required. No record was found which reflected when or if responsibility for Project ARTICHOKE was transferred from the Office of Security to any other Agency component.

File review reflected that [redacted] of the Office of Security's SRS coordinated much of the ARTICHOKE Program for OS. A black notebook containing a log of "hypnotic experimentations" by [redacted] with staff employees was reviewed. Apparently, such hypnotic experimentations were conducted between the period May 1951 to December 1953. In addition, certain drugs utilized in the ARTICHOKE Program were maintained at one time by SRS. A memorandum dated 14 October 1957 from [redacted] to the Chief/SRS reflected the transfer of drugs and apparatus from SRS to Dr. [redacted] of Medical Services. An inventory list of the drugs transferred is contained in the ARTICHOKE file.

A number of related files were reviewed in an attempt to trace the history, development, and use of drugs within this Agency, but no comprehensive compilation of such information was available at this writing. It appears that alcohol was utilized experimentally in 1956 as an aid to interrogation. It appears also that "total isolation" experiments were conducted as well.

One incident worthy of note occurred in November 1953. One Frank OLSEN, an Army civilian employee and an Agency consultant, committed suicide a week or so after being administered LSD by Agency TSS representative, Dr. GOTTLIEB. Agency officials later determined that the drug possibly contributed to the death of OLSEN. Apparently, the drug was administered to unwitting Subjects and without prior approval of the Office of Security and the Medical Staff. A memo dated 1 December 1953 from the I.G. Staff caused the impoundment of all LSD materials and caused the cessation of the use of LSD under CIA auspices at that time.

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It is noted that other files are being sought which might contain additional information pertinent to this topic and this memorandum should be considered as an interim report only.

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